

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, and 13-18 amended herein.

No new matter is added by these amendments.

In response to claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, claims 13 to 18 are amended to be directed to a "computer readable recording medium." In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Next, claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that as amended, claims 13 to 18 recite a "computer readable recording medium." This recitation is supported in the specification at least at page 60, lines 19 through 22. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is requested.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,813,644 to Jamieson.

It is respectfully submitted that Jamieson fails to disclose the feature of configuration information setting unit, configuration sharing unit, and virtual path configuration unit, as recited in the claims for at least the following reasons:

Claim 1 is amended to recite the feature of "a configuration information setting unit that includes an input device for inputting setting command and information on ports and nodes, and that sets configuration information that is information about configuration of the virtual private network;" based on description at page 14, lines 4 to 6, at page 35, lines 5 to 10, and at page 60, lines 6 to 18.

As best understood, the office action asserts that the PE (Provider Edge) is the configuration information setting unit. However, Jamieson fails to teach or disclose the feature of the

configuration information setting unit that includes an input device for inputting setting command and information on ports and nodes (emphasis added), and that sets configuration information that is information about configuration of the virtual private network.

The office action also asserts that, in Fig. 1 of Jamieson, each PE contains a link database, and BGP VPN database. However, the link database and the BGP VPN database, which are not disclosed in Fig. 1 of Jamieson, do not correspond to any claimed elements of the configuration information setting unit in the present invention. Therefore, also from this point of view, the configuration information setting unit in the present invention is neither disclosed nor taught in the PE of Jamieson. Accordingly, Jamieson fails to teach or disclose the amended feature of the configuration information setting unit of the present invention.

Further, the relied upon portions of Jamieson fail to teach a configuration information sharing unit. The office action asserts that the PE is the configuration information sharing unit. But in the present invention, the configuration information sharing unit transmits the configuration information *set by the configuration information setting unit* (emphasis added) to the other virtual path configuration apparatuses, as claimed in claim 1. The configuration information is information about configuration of the virtual private network, as defined in claim 1.

On the other hand, in Jamieson, as disclosed at column 8, lines 8 to 10, the PE node transmits VRI (VPN Reachability Information) received from the CPE (Customer Premise Equipment) with the VPN (Virtual Private Networks) connection request to peer nodes without requesting further VRI. According to the office action, the PE node corresponds to both the configuration information setting

unit and the configuration information sharing unit. But VRI is different from the configuration information because it is not set by the configuration information setting unit. Even if the VRI corresponds to the configuration information, Jamieson fails to teach or disclose the feature of the configuration information sharing unit, because the PE node (configuration information sharing unit) transmits the VRI received from the CPE which is not the configuration information setting unit.

Therefore, Jamieson fails to teach a configuration information sharing unit that shares the configuration information with other virtual path configuration apparatuses in the virtual private network by transmitting the configuration information set by the configuration information setting unit to the other virtual path configuration apparatuses.

Still further, the office action asserts that the peer node of Jamieson is the virtual path configuration unit of the instant claims. However, as described above, since the VRI is not the configuration information, Jamieson fails to teach a virtual path configuration unit that configures the virtual path based on the shared configuration information.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of Jamieson fail to teach each and every element of the claim 1, which is therefore allowable. Independent claims 7 and 13, as amended, recite similar features as claim 1 and patentably distinguish over Jamieson for at least the same reasons. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 depend from one of these allowable base claims and are therefore allowable therewith.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1-18 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references, and this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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